

ARA: Amb. PWBonsal: glb  
(Drafting Office and Officer)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

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(29) M-684

DATE: February 10, 1960

SUBJECT: Conversation with Indonesian Ambassador.

PARTICIPANTS: His Excellency Moekarto Notowidigdo, Ambassador of Indonesia.  
The Honorable Philip W. Bonsal, American Ambassador to Cuba.

COPIES TO:

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Ambassador Bonsal (cc)

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DJAKARTA

FEB 15 1960

I lunched with the Indonesian Ambassador today at his invitation. We have been good friends since the time when I was Director of the Office of Philippine and Southeast Asian Affairs (1952-1954).

The Ambassador expressed great satisfaction at the present state of Indonesian - United States relations and had words of high praise for Ambassador Jones, adding that all of our Ambassadors to Indonesia have been fine people.

The Ambassador spoke most enthusiastically about President Eisenhower's statement of January 26 regarding United States - Cuban relations. He said that it had elements of "greatness" in it and that it was a happy contrast with the general approach which the Dutch had tried to adopt for Indonesia.

The Ambassador asked me about the forthcoming conference of underdeveloped or underindustrialized nations which the Cuban Government is sponsoring. I told him that although the general subject is one in which we have demonstrated a very great interest, both from the point of view of Government and from that of private enterprise, we had not been officially approached by the Cuban Government and knew no more than what had been published regarding the matter. For example, we are unaware of how the activity proposed by the Cubans fits into other plans for dealing with the same subject, such as those implicit in the Colombo Plan and in the Committee of 21. I also said that another question in our minds was the degree to which UN technical support had been assured

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for the Cuban-sponsored conference. I told him that, speaking entirely personally, I thought the conference might have political as well as economic overtones and represent to some extent an assertion of independence on the part of the Cuban Government. I told him that I thought that certain of the American Republics which had been approached had concluded not to attend and that this fact had been published in the press. The Ambassador thanked me for this information. I gathered that he has been asked to report to his Government on the subject in connection with the forthcoming arrival in Djakarta of a Cuban representative to discuss this meeting.

The Ambassador told me that the Indonesian Ambassador to the UN, Dr. Ali Sastroamidjojo, had departed from New York by boat for Italy on his way back to Indonesia and probable retirement. In speaking of Dr. Ali, whom I at one time knew quite well, the Ambassador said that he thought Ali, during his period as Prime Minister, had made a great mistake in trying to conciliate the Indonesian Communist Party and that this policy was no longer accepted by the Nationalist Party, of which Ali was a leader.

Speaking of internal conditions in Indonesia, the Ambassador admitted the existence in the Celebes and in Sumatra of rebel strongholds, as well as the continued existence in West Java of Darul Islam guerrillas. He said, however, that Bernard Kalb's story in this morning's New York Times to the effect that robbery and destruction on the Goodyear "Wingfoot" plantation in Sumatra was the work of rebels against the Indonesian Government was in error. The Ambassador claims that these activities are the work of a group of Chinese bandits who are engaged in stealing rubber and smuggling it to Singapore without payment of Indonesian taxes and export duties. He said that Indonesian efforts to control these bandits had so far been fruitless and that very little cooperation had yet been obtained from the Singapore authorities.

I got the impression that the Ambassador, himself, expects to return to Indonesia within the next few months but that he will leave his eldest son, a student at George Washington University, to complete his work for an engineering degree, which he should obtain next year.

The Ambassador said that Sukarno expects to visit Cuba in the course of a worldwide trip. He will visit countries in Asia and Africa, as well as Bulgaria and Rumania. He should arrive in Cuba on May 9, where he will stay for five days, and will then proceed to Mexico, where Moskarto will meet him at Acapulco. He will apparently return to Indonesia via Japan.

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